

He believes that so long as the Brazilians continue to strip the roots of their beards, there will be in the market the so-called Lisbon Sarsaparilla, and as long as the inhabitants of the Spanish Main preserve these rootlets, there will be Jamaica Sarsaparilla; and further, that as long as the climate and other physical conditions of Guatemala remain unchanged, we shall receive from thence Sarsaparilla distinguished by its abundance of mealy matter.

MISCELLANEOUS.

RUNCINA HANCOCKI.

WHEN in company with Mr. William Thompson, I observed *Runcina Hancocki* in considerable abundance in the pools left between the rocks at low tide in Belmont Cove, Weymouth, but only on the tufts of *Hypnea purpurascens* which were infested with *Diatomacea*, which induces me to believe that they feed on these parasitic plants. I brought several of them to London, and have since sent some to Mr. Alder, who verifies the determination. Messrs. Alder and Hancock (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. xviii. 289. t. 4), when they first described the animal, referred them to the genus *Limapontia*, order *Inferobranchiata*. Mr. Edward Forbes (Brit. Moll. iii. 611. t. CCC.) formed them into a genus, placed provisionally at the end of the *Eolididæ*, observing that in all probability it represented a distinct family.

The examination I have been able to bestow on the animal induces me to agree with Mr. Forbes on this point, and I should be inclined to arrange the *Runcinidæ* in the order *Pleurobranchiata*, near *Bullidæ* and *Pleurobranchidæ*. It has the armed gizzard and gills of *Aplysiadæ*. To the excellent description of Messrs. Alder and Hancock, I may add, that the tongue-membrane is covered with three longitudinal series of large transparent teeth, like some of the *Bullidæ*. The central tooth is broad, transverse, with the upper edge reflexed, notched in the middle, and with three unequal denticles on each side of the middle line. The lateral teeth are rather large, versatile, conic, arched, compressed, with an acute tip. The prehensile collar is horny, large, rugose, with roundish tubercles. I am somewhat inclined to consider the front part of the back, enclosing the eyes, which are rather bent up on the sides and separated from the other part of the back by a paler colour, as the frontal lobe of the *Bullidæ*, which is united at this paler part to the true mantle, giving the animal the appearance of having a single oblong shield-like mantle. The mantle is very hard and tough, but without any appearance of a shell or spicula.—J. E. GRAY.

Note on the Coloration of the Waters of the Chinese Sea.

By M. CAMILLE DARESTE.

In this note M. Dareste informs us that the *Trichodesmium erythraeum*, described by Ehrenberg as the cause of the red colour assumed by the Red Sea at certain periods, has been brought from the Chinese sea, in a sample of water taken at a time when a great extent of the ocean was coloured red and yellow. The coloration was not con-